

1-19-1928

Letters to and from Hazel Todd (1928)

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Sept. 30, 1929

Shikshow, Hupch, China, Sept. 30, 1929

Dear Winifred:-

This letter is being written from our most northern out-station which is about thirty-five miles from Nanchow. It is another province and the people are quite different. One of the wangelists once told me that if I wanted to know what China was like thirty or forty years ago to look at Shikshow. One still finds little girls here no larger than Louise with bound feet. Although there is less of that seen now than the first time I came there is still much of it still done. The women too stay in more. You would see very few women on the street. It is rather difficult to work here as the women are afraid of us. This time they think it is better for me not to go out on the street to invite the women to come to meetings but to only go to the homes of church members. The postmaster was here this morning to invite me to come to his home and possibly to try his English. He himself was an wangelist until he made up his mind the salary he was getting was not sufficient. He gets four times as large a salary a postmasters as he did as evangelist. On this trip I met one other man who spoke English.

We were in Changsha nine days. While there I went to see a school opened for blind girls by one of our Associate missionaries. She has over forty blind girls. They have a good roomy piece of ground perhaps two acres

right next to Dr. Keller's Bible school. When they bought the place she thought the place in the city where she had been before could be sold so as to put up buildings on the new place. For one reason after another she could not sell the old place. But in the mean time money was coming in for buildings until she realized there was no need to sell the old place. Then all the hospitals in Changsha ~~were~~ ^{were} ~~lost~~ or destroyed and a doctor came along with an urgent need for her old place and then she realized she was not supposed to sell the old place. The girls in her school do beautiful knitting. Others spend a lot of time making books for themselves and others. She has taught some girls who are now teachers in other schools for the blind. She had some cute little girls there too. One of them as she felt of my hand said at once that I had on a watch and wanted to feel of it. At least six of the girls were in the tuberculosis ward. All but one of them were working too except one. She only had about one finger on each hand. She says she fell hands first into boiling water. but it may be she herself does not know what happened. She learned to knit in spite of her handicap but that day she was grieving because it had been decided that she was to spend less time studying. That decision was made because of her health.

It took us the most of two days by launch

to reach Nanchow. We would have reached Nanchow in a little over twenty four hours but they anchored over night. That was because there were over fourteen thousand silver dollars on board. So they were afraid to cross the lake at night for fear of brigands. Some of the lake is shallow enough for high reeds to grow and it makes a great hiding place for brigands. We reached Nanchow after two Friday afternoon. That was a much better time than five o'clock Saturday afternoon as when we got there in the spring. The house could possibly have been cleaner when we got there as we have not yet done anything more to the attic than sweep the floor. All the floors and woodwork in the rest of the house had been painted while we were away. The veranda floors had been covered with tar. And the rails there were tared also. Of course the house is brick.

They did not have ~~any~~ ^{any} the glass in the windows yet nor have in all the screens. The screens were still not in my windows when I left last week.

I did go ~~on~~ the street Saturday to see a few of the people. But the first thing to be attended to was get furniture for the Bible woman's room and for the guest room. To furnish the two rooms cost me twenty-five dollars. The Bible woman's room has a bed, a large cupboard, a desk and two stools to use as chairs. The guest room has eight chairs, a table and four

stands. I did not think the stands necessary but they think a guest room is not complete without them. We stuck some posters on the wall to complete the latter room. I do not think the evangelist who helped me do it realized any more than I did while we doing it until afterwards that we put the cross as the central figure on all four sides. He ought to have helped me do it for he got the man who sold most of the furniture to him to throw in a rope frame work for his bed. Of course he told me himself what was done.

We left Nanchow Thursday morning. I do not remember taking so long to pack or forgetting so much as this time. My things to take out with me were scattered over the house. But before gathering those up I had to find places for the medicines and things in the tin box I use for taking to the country. We had so much bad weather after we reached Nanchow that Mrs. Draffin tried to persuade me not to plan to start Thursday. But it turned out that Thursday was the first clear day we had after reaching Nanchow and it has been clear ever since. There is a lot more I might write this time but this letter must close.

With love,

Hazel Todd.

Sept. 30, 1929

Sept. 30, 1929

Miss Winifred Todd,
Strathmore,
Calif.,
answered W. S. A.



Oct. 14, 1929

Nanchow, Hunan, China. Oct. 14, 1929

Dear Mother:-

Your welcome letter was here when I got in from the out-station day before yesterday. No doubt it was here in time for my birthday but I was away. Thank you for the money you sent for my birthday. It will come in handy for a book or something of that kind. Mrs. Draffin gave me a very pretty tray and had some extra fixing for Sunday dinner the Sunday after my birthday. They seemed determined to celebrate even though late.

To go back to my birthday as it is a holiday in China usually one hears plenty of noise. But I took the day to go from one out-station to another on the way back to Nanchow as we had already been away from Nanchow for two weeks. The day before the evangelist and I had walked well over ten miles as well as stop to talk to people by the way. When I got back I was too lazy to start in packing so it was all left until that day. Before getting my breakfast I started to pack. Of course curtains and mosquito nets had to come down to pack along with the bedding in the oil sheet. And my bed has a special cover for it. Of course cooking utensils, food and clothes and medicines etc. go in my galvanized iron box. There is a tray for my clothes. I got that kind of box after being in China a while to at least keep my food away from the rats. Of course good-byes had to be said around. The evangelist has a wife and mother-in-law, an adopted son and his wife all to support. The evangelist told me his son could carry my things but it turned out he was not strong enough. Shichow or Stoner hand where we started from that morning is some distance from the river. So the creek that reaches almost to the river we travel on by a smaller boat. We had one delay after another so we did not get on the second boat until two o'clock in the afternoon. We could easily tell the boat man and his wife had come from a distance because of their dress. They had quite a tale to tell of their having been burned out and forced to leave home by the communists. They came out with very few of their possessions but they already owned a boat for use during the high water. Probably they can count themselves fortunate they escaped

alive. They were hard working people so no doubt had been fairly well off. Fortunately they are young enough to make a fresh start. We had a favorable wind and a strong current to carry us on our way so we were at Mieshienshu before five. Usually when there I sleep up in the loft. I made my bed up stairs the same as usual before dark. While doing so I thought I smelled something. But it was not until late that evening I found the source was a dead kitten. The room only had a small window with boards nailed across close enough so no one could get in. The excuse for not having attended to the matter sooner was that the room was so dark they could not find it. Not many people came in that evening so we had been there two weeks before.

We did not get nearly as much done on our trip as we hoped we could. People at Shihshow seem even more indifferent than they used to. We have always counted that place as the most difficult of our out. stations. The evangelist who works there has been there about fifteen years. He has not had many converts but one can easily see that the testimony he has given is counting. We went to see the Buddhist nun who about decided to leave the place the time we there before. She seemed very glad to see us. But I knew that to make an attempt to speak to her about coming away with us would create suspicion so I left the message for some one else to deliver after I came away. It may be ~~so~~ hard for her to break away but if she is really sincere in wanting to believe the gospel she must do it. We went to the home of a man who had once seemed to be a bright christian. His father and mother had also both been church members. But during the communist uprising they chose him as a leader. As such he even came to the chapel demanded collection money from the evangelist. He succeeded in getting some money which belonged to them from the evangelist's wife. After acting the way he did around the church naturally he was ashamed to ask the evangelist to come to conduct the funeral service for his mother. So he had a regular heathen funeral. There was the spirit tablet, paper house, the incantations of Taoist priests and all the fixings. But just before I went to Shihshow he sent for Mr. Chang the evangelist to come to his home. He was very ill and had fever enough to make him delirious. When Mr. Chang told me about the invitation I suggested going with him. It rained four days when we wanted to go. When we did go it was very muddy and we walked nearly

three miles through the mud to get there. The man did not recognize me at first. When he found out who I was the next thing he spoke about was the spirit tablet. He wanted the evangelist to take it out and have it burned. So his wife and Mr. Chang kindled a fire outside and burned it at once. They also threw on some scrolls. After the fire was started the man sent another bunch to be burned. I do not know what was wrong about the scrolls but no doubt they knew. When we got that done we went in and had prayer with the man. Fortunately he was already well on the road to recovery. But he broke down and wept over his sins.

Another day while at Shihshow I went to see about the property where we hope to have another out station building some time. While things were stered up some one took the opportunity to build on the property belonging to our mission. I do not know how the thing will be settled finally. Mr. Draffen says the houses must be pulled down or a like amount of property given no elsewhere. I do not know how it will be settled. The officials say that they do not tear down people's houses. So one finds it a difficult matter.

We went to a country place about ten miles out to see the mother of one of the evangelists. She was very glad to have me come. It has been a long time since she has seen him. And she has not yet seen their youngest child. She and her husband had just been very ill.

The evangelist at Meitienshu came with us when we came back. On the way we stopped for the birthday feast of a child a year old at the home of a church member. The baby was already engaged to a baby now ten months old. One wishes they would cease to make engagements for the little children.

We still see many children with bound feet at our northern out-stations. On the way there on a boat I was sitting where I could see the face of a ten year old girl, but could not see her feet. I remarked to the Bible woman "that girl has bound feet." The Bible woman looked at me and said how do you know. She had to admit it was true though. One can almost always tell because nearly always it is imprinted on the face.

A missionary did happen to come through here this week

he had my room for the night and I slept in the room Mrs Draffin's little boy sleeps in.

Mrs. Draffin had word today that her mother died the sixth of last month. She had diabetes. Something got wrong with her leg and they tried to amputate it. She lived less than two days afterward. She was very fond of Mrs Draffin's children because she only had one other grandchild. She left money in the hands of one of the other daughters to buy Christmas presents for them.

It is going to be latter for me to go to the out station this time than I had hoped. There is going to be great need of wisdom this time as some people are living in our out-station building who should be compelled to get out. It is the same place I went to nearly three years ago just before I went home.

There is so much of other things to do that this letter must close. I am still waiting to hear about Alice.

With love to all of you,
Hazel Todd.

Oct. 24, 1929



14,
Oct 29

Mrs. C. A. Todd,
Strathmore,
Calif.
U. S. A.

Oct 29, 1929

Nanchow, Hunan. Oct. 29, 1929.

Dear Winifred:-

We have just been to another out-station and we are on the way back. There is always so much to do when we get back to the main station when we can stay so short a time. So I must at least start this letter on the way. Chiu tai h'io where we have just been is a town of about ten thousand people. Besides there are many villages surrounding it. We spent eleven days there and we should have spent at least that many months. But there are other out stations just as needy we must go to. So I hope it will not be necessary to spend more than three or four days in the main station before going out again. Nanchow is such a large place I must do my share of the work while there for Mrs. Draffin can not do it all. A week or ten days is much too short a time to stay in these large places. One girl said that when listening to our message ^{beginning to} had a flavor we go away. But even so we hope that a few have really made a decision. At Chiu tai h'io where we have just been the widow of an evangelist who worked there many years has promised to do what she can for the women until we can go back again. She can teach the women quite a lot. And if the women fail to come to church on Sunday she can go to see them and bring them back again. Some places one hardly dares to pray for conversions because there is no one to look after them while we are away. Mrs. Li seemed very glad to see us. She told the Bible-woman she would much rather have us come than her very closest relatives. She did her best to help us in every way. We found the chapel in a very bad condition. The place where the pulpit stands had been used as a place to punish criminals. Every available room except one up-stairs which could only be reached by a ladder which lacks a step was occupied by some one. The chapel was used as a dining room and work room by all living in the house. My first move was to inform every one that as soon as possible after the time they were paid up they were to move out. And we do not want any one to move in to take their place after they are gone. One family did move out while we were there. Others gave only fair promises. I had been informed that all of them had been gambling. I gave this as the reason we did not want out-siders to live in the chapel and added nearly all outsiders do gamble. It turned out that none of them did gamble while we were there. I also informed them that the chapel was built to worship the Lord and when it came time to hold meetings they were to move all the tables and work out of the chapel. They obeyed that order

fairly well. We held eight meetings in all. The women listened fairly well. So many came late after the meetings were over. In fact we reached more women outside of meetings than during the times we were preaching. Where there are so few clocks and most of those out of repair or nearly an hour out this is easy to understand. It makes a lot of extra work.

We met one church member and his wife from another out station. They had once been quite well to do. But during the Communist uprising they were compelled to join in with the others. Then when the soldiers came in against the Communists they were compelled to flee for their lives. I do not know just how they got together again. They have a boy about ten years old. They have also raised a girl a little older to be their future daughter-in-law. They were once considered well to do. But now they have almost nothing. They have beds made of boards with some straw on them. They seemed so glad to see me. They wanted me to stop and have a meal with them. Because I would not do this they gave me some beans very much like peas that they roasted for us. They tasted better than you would think. The woman brought at least a half dozen other women with her to church Sunday morning. On Monday the last time she came I gave her some quinine and also told her what to do for itch. The men had scared the ^{other} women out of coming this last time by letting them that we foreigners dig out people's eyes and hearts.

They had not held church services there for two years and a half but I think they have started again. We only have two benches that they once had. These have to be stood against the wall or they could not be used. The rest of the benches must be borrowed. There is not time to tell about the old Buddhist nun who came several times. Not about the girls who came in to learn to sing hymns. I taught one girl how to knit a baby sweater like the one I made for Buddy. Then there was the grandmother that the Bible woman and I preached to nearly two hours and she went right out and bought some more incense to burn before the idols. The Bible woman finally persuaded her to take it back. I think she now understands a little. Perhaps some time she may become as earnest in worshipping the Lord as she once was in bowing before idols. Many remembered my former visits there. Chiu to'i k'eo was the last out station I went to before before I went home. It was while I was there they had the riot. The same old man came to help me. This time we sold over seven hundred books and tracts while there. Many of our former church members have joined the Pentecostal movement.

Oct. 29, 1929

One of the Bible women has resigned. She has two children less than two years old so she is rather tied down by her family. Anyway her husband will have more time for his work from now on. And that is a big consideration. The wife of the other evangelist just came back from her mother's home before we left. She brought me a chicken and the cotton filling for a comforter ^{for me}. She had not been back at Nanchow since she left before I went home. She helped me study the language my second year in China. Her two children are older. So perhaps she can help us out some. Mrs. Draffin is trying to get the other women to working also. But even so ^{we} do need another Bible woman.

^{Oct. 31} We had to spend a night on the boat coming back. The old man with us did not have any bedding with him. So the Bible woman lent him hers and she slept with me. I was too warm and she too cold. But the main reason I did not sleep better was because my bed was too short. We had to stop at an unsafe place for the night because of the rain. But we were glad it happened because where we stopped for breakfast a number perhaps over fifty came to look at the foreigners. So we had a good opportunity to preach to them. We only had eighteen tracts left we could sell. We had reason to wish we had more.

While I was away they put the knobs on my desk. They also put the screen on my window frames and glass in my windows. Since I came back yesterday I have straightened out my tracts and picked out those I need for the next trip. I made the cover for my mattress but have not tied it or fastened it on. Some one else may be hired to do that. But a lot of other things no one may do for me. There are so many opportunities to preach these days to those who never heard of our Lord one wishes for many times the strength and time to do it.

I am very sorry that in buying Christmas presents I found nothing for Buddy. The puzzle rings are for Father and Gordon. They probably can find away to put them together.

With love to all,
Hazel Todd.

Oct. 29, 1929



Miss Winifred Todd,
Strathmore,

Calif.,
U. S. A.

answered

Oct. 29, 1929

Nov. 16, 1929

Nanchow, Hunan, China. Nov. 16, 1929.

Dear Alice:-

You have good reason for wondering why your letter was not answered before now. But this fall really has been crowded just about as full as I could manage. We have had good opportunities to go to the out-stations. So we have made three trips taking from ten to seventeen days within the less than two months since we got back after the summer.

I am very glad you had better results this time. But I sorry you did not get on better. No doubt you glad it is all over. I am sorry even yet I have nothing to send. My time is taken up with trips getting straightened out after trips and getting ready to go again. We expect to spend December and January in the main station though. During December though I have promised to take seven or more classes a week. Mrs. Draffin's children will be here too so I ought to look after the work in the main station that month. Nanchow is growing so rapidly it may not be long until we have fifty thousand people. It looks a far different place than three years ago.

It is very quiet in the house here these days. Mr. and Mrs. Draffin together with Mr. Mason and Keith left Friday to be gone a few days. Mr. Mason has been living here the last six months. He is very much Scotch. There is a girl in Scotland with whom he keeps up a regular and copious correspondence. She expects to come to China too. They kindly took the cook with them. Of course I know he wanted to go. Thursday afternoon we got back from a ten day trip when we had slept in five different houses. We spent three nights each in two different places. The place we spent two nights we staid the first night and the next to the last. So we got plenty of experience in rolling up and unrolling our bedding and putting up and taking down my bed. We attended a wedding while there. To get there in time I had to walk about three mile through the rain at least it seemed that far. The mud was very much like it would be at home. In order not to slip I put on straw sandals such as coolies wear over my rubbers. They laughed at me because I started to put them on hind end foremost. The Bible woman could not walk that far anyway so had to wait to have a chair sent for her. She weighs very little over eighty pounds but the evangelists say that when it comes to the matter of transportation she reckons with the bedding and other baggage. One evening I heard the Chinese having a good laugh. One of the evangelists was giving a demonstration of how the Bible woman and I cross ditches. He was making the motions of the way I lift her across. It seems to be

an abundant source of mirth in spite of my threat to let them help her across. We spent three days at one place at the time of a wedding. The bridegroom was only seventeen and the bride two years younger. They both are christians as well as the father and mother of the bridegroom and his younger sister. We had meetings twice a day while there. The last evening they called on me to speak. Besides the Bible woman two evangelists were with us. So they did most of the speaking. But the request came from the people to hear the Bible woman and I. So far I had never been where the people seemed to appreciate us more. The mother-in-law and both of the girls wish to be baptized and so were examined while we were there. There is also another elderly woman who wishes to be baptized. We tried to see about property while there but did not succeed. About two hundred dollars would buy a place but the mission objects to our putting foreign money into property just now. We do need a place there though. We have earnest christians there but few are blessed with this world's goods. We are greatly handicapped when we go there as we have no place to stay except in the homes of the christians and no place to hold meetings under a roof. The Sunday we were there some of the church benches were arranged under a matting.

While at one of the homes they asked for some pop corn to be used for seed a pound would do. If I do not remember to write Mother about it will you please ask her to see about it. They like some other varieties of seeds also. This is the first time I have been asked for anything of the kind. If they become accustomed to raising such things then we can buy and have them to use.

I have been treating three patients these days. The one I dread most is a year old baby who has erysipilis. Fortunately it is on only one leg and is extending toward the foot rather than going up. It suffers so I wish something more effective than what we are using could be found. We used nitrate of silver where it first appeared and salve after the inflammation was taken down. In my book there is a prescription for a wet dressing to use. I think of trying it to see if it will ease the pain more than what we are using now. We wash out the baby's eyes to every day. The whole family were ill at the time the father died about three months ago. And the child got neglected and run down then. The father was an earnest christian and so is the mother.

We stopped two places on our way back from the out-station. The

first place is about half way between where I had never been before. I presume between two and three thousand people live there. We sold between two and three hundred gospels in the less than two hours we spent there. It is one of those places we should be doing something for. We spent the night with a christian family. It is the fourth time I have been there. Two of the men they employ date the time of their conversion to the time of one of my former visits there. I always enjoy going there for they seem to really care so much for us. They gave me some Chinese cake to eat on the way back and a fish for Mrs. Draffin. For our noon meal we ate cake, cookies and raw turnip fixed with peppers. We are never supposed to eat raw vegetables in China and there is good reason for such rules. I ate three strips about the size of my little finger.

According to the mission paper that was here when I got back two of the men of the B. I. glee club two years ago arrived in China last month. One might have still been on it last spring. The other had been glee club president. Your letter telling of the new arrival was also here. We had a busy time talking things over that evening and morning. It rained in the morning and they thought of waiting until the next day. But by the time they were on the boat ready to start the sun was shining.

I have to stop and start another letter tonight.

With love,

Hazel Todd.

Nov. 16, 1929



Mrs. R. Glenn Basley,
Strathmore,
Calif.,
U. S. A.

Nov 16 1929

Dec. 7, 1929

Nanchow, Hunan, China, Dec. 7, 1929.

Dear Mothers:-

Although there are no more trips to record since my last letter perhaps there might be enough to write a letter about. You talk about things the same as usual and sometimes they can get that way here. Especially when we go away to the hills there is not much to write about. The most important thing we have tried to do recently has been to try to start a month of study for women and girls. Only four have come in from the out-stations. But I must confess my faith is small for when we began our plans for it I did not expect that many. The Chinese workers took hold of it and seemed more enthusiastic about it than myself and they are putting some hard work into it. Of the four who came only one is not young. She is the widow of an evangelist who died a few years ago. He left her with enough to keep her the rest of her life. But she has sold quinine to help pay her expenses so she now has about half as much again money as when her husband died. She has offered to do what she can for us the remaining years of her life and to give all the money she has left after burial services are paid to the church. She brought a girl about thirteen with her who has been most cruelly treated by her step-mother. She enjoys being here very much. And she is learning rapidly. The other two young women are from the same family. One was married about a month ago although she is only fifteen. Her father-in-law, mother-in-law and husband are all Christians so she has a lot of encouragement in the home. She has bright sparkling eyes and moves about like lots of girls at home would do. Her feet were bound slightly as a little girl but they have been let out so she can walk miles. The other girl is about sixteen. She is a younger sister of the young man just who is husband of the young woman just mentioned. Her great trial is her mother-in-law for she has made it very hard for her because she would not worship idols. She does not look so happy. But she knows more about the Lord than many girls at home with hundred times her opportunities would. They have studied a simple catechism but have never had a chance to learn more than that. The young man who is husband of one and brother of the other apologized for their knowing so little. But the sister especially does not need one to apologize for some other things.

Mrs. Heng the Bible woman is teaching two classes each day. One is a book of simple Bible verses she is having the girls memorize. The other class is more advanced on the gospel of Matthew. Mrs. Chin the wife of one of the evangelists is teaching the catechism. Some of the girls she is teaching are not very large and not very fast when it comes to learning but she shows a great deal of patience with them. Their classes come five times a week. My daily class is on Old Testament History. There are only two advanced enough for it but I expect another one to come who can take it. There is no reason for discouragement on account of my class being small if they can each in their turn pass on to others what they learn. I also have two classes on story telling where I am trying to get the girls themselves to tell Bible stories and two classes on the most simple hygiene each week. Mrs. Driffin has two classes a week on hymn singing. We have over two hours a week also on hand work. But not more than a third care for the hand work. I am not sorry about that for our object is to teach them the Bible.

Since my last letter the wife of one of our evangelists has gone with her two children to her mother's home. Of course her husband went with her but he is coming back and will get ready to go to Changteh. The old evangelist over there has nearly come to the end of his usefulness. Besides he has not been too careful of his example. The young evangelist seems very glad to change to over there. We have been having two evangelists at the main station here and that does not work too well.

Dec. 9. Today we were called out at noon to deal with a case of attempted suicide. The woman had taken face powder. We gave her mustard water to help her get rid of it. But I am afraid she had absorbed more or less of it as no doubt it contained arsenic. I have had two classes today one on the Old Testament and one on hygiene. I also did a little bit of painting. A man is supposed to be here before the day is over to have his eyes attended to. I had a very fine letter from one of the girls who was at B. I. when I was there. She was so sure about going to India when I last saw her. Mrs. Canfield knew my interest in her and so has kept in touch with her. She is beginning to think that perhaps she should come to China instead. It is not so easy to know just at first the place where the Lord would

have one work. Not everything is revealed to one all at once. Mrs Canfield had also had a supper for about a dozen B. I. girls about a month ago. They drew a picture of the fireplace in the cabin the mission bought recently and where they spent the evening. This was on a long piece of paper that most of the girls wrote a note on. Mrs. King was in Yangchow as housekeeper when I was studying the language, Mrs Canfield and three others I knew at B. I. and some I had never met wrote notes. Mrs. Canfield sent something for Christmas but I will find out about that latter.

Mr. Draffin is away to meet the children coming home for the Christmas holidays. He had just been at Changteh and came back for two nights before going to Changsha. While he was in Changteh we buried an old church member. For many years he had almost forgotten he was a church member and so far as we were concerned had little reason to remember. But when he became old and out of work he came back often for a hand out. Mr. Mason put up a few windows and put glass in others. This was not easy for the carpenters here are satisfied when the measurements are all alike on the outside. They do not seem to realize the openings make any difference. I varnished a cupboard and a small table. I bought the cupboard Mrs. Draffin is now using for a dish cupboard in the dining room to use for my medicines and instruments etc. It will save a lot of work when we can have everything together.

Perhaps Alice passed the word on from my last letter to her that I would like a pound or two of pop corn for seed. She may have told you too about the baby I was treating for erysipilis. We have reason to be glad the child recovered.

Since writing about the woman who took the poison she has sent around word to us to thank us for our interest in her.

In the letters today there was word about another young woman I knew at B. I. who has come out to China.

We bought some stands today that cost fifty cents a piece. They are not very large but look nice. My furniture is all made now unless I should get another chair. But every thing except my desk and wash stand still has to be varnished.

My wardrobe, dresser and book case have to be done yet. Of course it would be much nicer to have a closet than a wardrobe but that is not the way the house is made.

I must stop and do some other writing yet tonight. Also I must see about some thing for the women and have prayer with them yet tonight.

With much love,
Hazel Todd.

DEC 7-1929



Dec 7, 29

Mrs. C. A. Todd,
Strathmore,
Calif.,
U. S. A.

Dec. 27, 1929

Nanchow, Hunan, China. Dec. 27, 1929.

Dear Mother:—

Your letter came the beginning of the week the same day a letter from Alice came. The next day one came from Isabelle. At any rate the letters were here before Christmas. Thanks you and Isabelle for the "Ladie's Home Journal." I shall be glad to have it for in any interior place like this where there is only one other American it is very easy to get out of date.

We had a good Christmas. We began days before to get things ready to decorate the church and the house. Mrs. Draffin's children worked on paper chains for the house. And the girl students worked on church decorations. We did have a Christmas sermon on Sunday of course. My message both for women's meeting and the children's meeting was on "The Wise Men." We dismissed classes Monday and Tuesday so I had a little time to help with the Christmas dinner. Tuesday evening they had a good meeting in spite of the fact that the streets were very bad. They had me play the phonograph before they began the meeting. They had a very good meeting a number having taken part as it was open for anyone to speak. The general subject was "There was no Room for Him in the Inn." We finished the tree after meeting and got to bed late of course. Early the next morning Mr. Mason and the children sang Christmas carols. We had the tree at seven. I got a light weight grey and blue wool sweater from Mr. and Mrs. Draffin, a scarf from the children, a calendar from Mr. Mason and a book as well as some other things from Mr. and Mrs. Canfield. Just inside the cover of the book was one of her cards like she sends out every year. There is one other package on the way besides the one from you. It contains some "Dot and Will" stories cut out of the "American Magazine" and some dried figs. She was also sending some decorations for our table. Her package was sent before the one you sent. This girl had asked Mrs. Canfield what to send of course I got acquainted with her at B.I.. During Christmas morning we went to give a present around to the people on the compound after breakfast but before morning prayers. Then we made the salad, decorated the table and got things ready for communion.

The morning service was at eleven. One of the evangelists spoke. After the service seven were baptized. There were three girls in their teens and one boy in his teens as well as three older men. One of the men was father of one of the girls baptized. The two other girls were sisters in law. One man went almost blind and spent about all he had to have his sight restored. He became worse until he heard the gospel when his sight was restored in answer to prayer. One of the men works in the shop belonging to some church members who brought him in. The boy has his father who belongs to the church committee also his mother, two older brothers and a sister who are church members. His younger brother and the wives of his two older brothers are inquirers. We had communion at the end of the service. We then went to eat our dinner and the Chinese had a feast. We had goose, mashed potatoes, lima beans, stewed tomatoes, fruit salad made with apple, oranges and pomelo and raisins, mince pie home made candy and coffee. The children and Mr. Mason had a short program after dinner. After this there was time to slip out to have prayer with the girls who joined the church that day who were to testify in the evening. We had supper early on account of the evening meeting. I wish you could have heard the girls testify. One of them told about how her mother prayed with her one time when she had very bad eyes. The girls did much better than the men. Even the evangelist said so and that is a great thing for a Chinese man to admit such a thing. After meeting I had ^{to} get an assortment of tracts and catechisms ready to send by an evangelist who was leaving the next morning for Changteh. After that I had a talk with some of the girls before going up stairs for bed at nearly ten. We had much to be thankful for because of the testimonies given during the day. The evangelist who went to Changteh told of how nearly he had been tempted to go into business in yet how the Lord had made him see that he should still keep on with his work. But our day's work did not end there. At midnight we were called next door where they tried to look after our things when we were away. The woman there had taken opium. Mr. and Mrs. Driffin had been there first and gave her a solution of permanganate of potash even before

they knew what was the matter. Mrs. Tuan at first would not tell what she had taken. When I got there after midnight I tried to give her coffee to keep her awake but she vomited that and also the tea she wanted us to give her. At about one Mr and Mrs. Draffin and Mr. Mason left. And Mr. Chin one of the evangelists staid on with me there for another two hours. A lot of the time Mrs. Tuan's pulse was very weak. But we did not have much difficulty in arousing her. Even at three I was almost persuaded against my better judgment to leave. In order to have staid on it would have been necessary to tell more about the pulse than I wanted to tell. Both she and her husband seemed very much appreciative of what we did. I should have felt much better that two hours had there been a hypodermic needle with the proper medicine to go with it at hand to use in case of emergency. That morning at breakfast time Mrs. Draffin came to my door to ask if I did not want breakfast in my room. Fortunately I only had one class that day for I felt a bit like the morning after the night before.

You would have laughed at the two make shifts of the day. Santa Claus wore my dressing gown, a cap made of red crepe paper and white cotton from a medicine bottle and a beard made with cotton. The tree was made by tying greens onto a tree branch. Of course Santa Claus only appeared before the foreign children and those staying on the compound.

We do not have many in our school now which continues another week. But those few who still are here are getting on very well. One in my class on the Old Testament said the other day "you tell us so many things we never heard before."

The three Draffin children help keep things lively here, these days. We have Keith here all the time of course but the other three seem to make him all the more noisy. We notice too that there is far less temptation for him to wander to the Chinese quarters.

Since my last letter they have a new gate-keeper. The other was not satisfactory. And just the day after he left he was arrested and put in jail a week because he smoked opium. The cook we had just before I went home was on the compound the other evening but I did not have an opportunity to meet meet him.

No doubt the package you sent will be here soon. In any case
I want to thank you for it.

With love,
Hazel Todd.

Dec. 27, 1929

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Mrs. C. A. Todd,
Strathmore,
Calif.,
U. S. A.